



URBAN DISTRICT OF HUNSTANTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended DECEMBER 31st, 1969

Local Health Office,
Baron's Close,
Fakenham,
Norfolk.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29442448>

HUNSTANTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

DR. L.G.POOLE, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.,D.T.M. & H.

Local Health Office,
Baron's Close,
Fakenham.
Tel: Fakenham 2751.

Public Health Inspector

E. PHILBIN, B.A.,M.A.P.H.I.,Cert.S.I.B.
(until 2nd January,1969)

D.R. HEAD, M.A.P.H.I. (from 1st April,1969)

Council Offices,
Hunstanton.
Tel: Hunstanton 2517

Public Health and Housing Committee - 1969-70

Chairman	-	Cllr. J.T. Shorten
Vice-Chairman	-	Cllr. R.S. Mascall
Members	-	Cllr. I.W. Barker
	-	Cllr. G.L. Cracknell
	-	Cllr. J.F. Fleming
	-	Cllr. G.E. Gibson
	-	Cllr. D.J. Insley
	-	Cllr. T.C.R. Legge
	-	Cllr. W. Paterson
	-	Cllr. D.T. Popplewell
	-	Cllr. M.R. Thomas
Ex-Officio Member	-	Cllr. K.J. Bolton Chairman of the Council

HUNSTANTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
year ended 31st December, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual report for 1969. The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population to have been 4,210, compared with 4,230 in the previous year. There were thirty-six live births and seventy-six deaths, giving a natural decrease of forty. There has, therefore, been an estimated movement into the urban district of twenty people.

Mr. E. Philbin, B.A., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.S.I.B., the Public Health Inspector, resigned with effect from the 2nd January. Mr. D.R. Head, M.A.P.H.I. commenced his duties as the Public Health Inspector with effect from the 1st April.

The corrected birth rate for the urban district was 7.4 per 1000 population. The rate for England and Wales was 16.3, and for the administrative county of Norfolk 16.3 per 1000.

The corrected death rate was 12.3 per 1000 population. Sixty of the seventy-six deaths occurred in people over 65 years of age. There were a further eight deaths in the 55 to 64 age group. This made a total of 68 deaths occurring in people over 55 years of age.

The scheme for the new water supply progressed during the year. The delivery from the trial borehole sited at Sedgeford proved satisfactory in quality and quantity. The North West Norfolk Water Board took over the whole of the water authorities undertakings on April 1st, 1969, but the council has continued to act as agent for the new water board throughout the rest of the year.

The urban district is a popular holiday resort. The annual survey in August recorded 1,424 caravans and 153 tents as occupied, compared with 1,382 caravans and 62 tents in August 1968. This is an increase in caravans of 7% over 1968 and 15% over 1965.

I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, and the staffs of the Public Health Department and the Local Health Office, for their continuous interest, support and help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L.G. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
Medical Officer of Health

SECTION I

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area The District covers 1,498 acres including 434 acres of fore-shore.

Population The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population in 1969 was 4,210, compared with 4,230 in 1968; a decrease of 20.

Year	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Estimated Mid-Year Population	5320	4840	4900	3810	3940	4060	4140	4200	4230	4210

Births The number of live births during the year was 36.

Deaths The deaths numbered 76 during the same period.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 1,638 at 1st April, 1969, compared with 1,630 at 1st April, 1968.

Rateable Value of the District: £ 231,577

Product of a Penny Rate: £ 916

Meteorological Factors. The information shown in the following table has been acquired by the courtesy of Mr. Mele of Docking, from recordings made at Docking.

Month	Mean daily maximum Temp. °F	Mean daily minimum Temp. °F	Mean daily Temp. °F	Highest Maximum Temp.		Lowest Minimum Temp.		Total rainfall in inches	Maximum Rainfall	
				°F	Date	°F	Date		ins.	Date
Jan.	44.2	35.1	39.7	54	22nd	27	1st	1.87	0.34	20th
Feb.	36.6	27.5	32.0	46	23rd	17	15th	1.28	0.26	11th
Mar.	41.4	31.2	36.2	51	30, 31.	25	6th, 8th.	1.95	0.38	12th
Apr.	53.0	36.1	44.6	70	9th	29	3rd	1.78	0.33	15th
May	60.3	45.2	52.7	72	4, 13.	36	1st	2.87	0.75	16th
June	64.2	48.5	56.4	73	29, 30.	41	4th, 7th.	2.13	0.87	2nd
Jul.	71.0	55.5	63.3	85	16th	47	10th	2.80	0.80	29th
Aug.	67.0	54.7	60.7	81	9, 10.	46	27th	1.97	0.34	12th
Sept	63.1	50.7	57.0	73	11th	37	30th	0.20	0.08	17th
Oct.	60.8	48.8	54.8	69	9th	41	1st, 2nd, 31st.	0.49	0.18	21st
Nov.	44.1	34.5	39.2	61	2nd	25	18th, 29th.	3.82	0.78	16th
Dec.	39.5	31.6	35.5	48	21st	22	6th	3.03	0.49	15th

VITAL STATISTICS - 1969

Births

The Registrar General's figure for live births for the Urban District was 36. There was one stillbirth.

Table showing the sex of legitimate and illegitimate live births

		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Legitimate	Males	24	28	24	17	13
	Females	22	23	30	16	17
	Total	46	51	54	33	30
Illegitimate	Males	2	3	2	2	3
	Females	2	2	-	3	3
	Total	4	5	2	5	6
Total Live Births		50	56	56	38	36

Live Birth Rate

The crude rate was 8.6 per 1,000 population. The corrected birth rate (using a comparability factor of 0.86) was 7.4 per 1,000 population compared with 16.3 for England and Wales, and 16.3 for the Administrative County of Norfolk.

Illegitimate Births

There were 6 illegitimate births in 1969. The percentage of illegitimate births to the total live births was 17.

Still Births

There was one stillbirth in 1969. The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live births was 27. The rate for England and Wales was 13.0, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 13.

Infant Deaths

One infant under one year of age died in 1969.

Infant Mortality Rate

This is calculated as the total infant deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births, and for 1969 was 28. The rate for England and Wales was 18.0, and for the Administrative County of Norfolk 16.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths in legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births. The rate for 1969 was 33.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths in illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. The 1969 rate was zero.

Neonatal Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births. The rate for 1969 was 28.

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate

This is the total of deaths of infants under one week of age per 1,000 live births. The 1969 rate was 28.

Perinatal Mortality Rate

This is the combined total of stillbirths and deaths under one week of age per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. The rate for 1969 was 54.

Maternal Mortality Rate

No deaths occurred in 1969. The rate was zero.

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Live Births	50	56	56	38	36
Live Birth Rate - Crude	12.3	13.5	13.3	9.0	8.6
Live Birth Rate - Corrected	13.05	14.3	11.4	7.74	7.4
Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	8.0	9.0	3.6	13.2	17.
Still Births	0	0	0	0	1
Still Birth Rate	0	0	0	0	27.
Total Live & Still Births	50	56	56	38	37
Infant Deaths	2	1	1	0	1
Infant Mortality Rate	40.	17.8	18.	0	28.
" " " - Legitimate	43.5	19.6	18.5	0	33.
" " "-Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Mortality Rate	40.	0	18.	0	28.
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	20.	0	0	0	28.
Perinatal Mortality Rate	20.	0	0	0	54.
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Maternal Mortality Rate	0	0	0	0	0

Deaths

The total number of deaths at all ages in the District during 1969 was 76 (males 28; females 48).

Heart disease, with 29 deaths, caused 38.2% of all deaths.
Cerebro Vascular disease, with 10 deaths, caused 13.2% of all deaths.
Cancer, with 14 deaths, caused 18.4% of all deaths.
89.5% of all deaths occurred in persons over 55 years of age.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	-	18.1
Corrected Death Rate (comparability factor 0.68)	-	12.3
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate	-	1.03
Death Rate for the Administrative County of Norfolk	-	10.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	-	11.9

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Deaths	61	58	67	90	76
Death Rate - Crude	15.0	14.0	16.0	21.3	18.1
Death Rate - Corrected	9.5	8.5	10.8	14.2	12.3

Deaths from all causes

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths tabled under the International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1966. Where headings are omitted from the table, there were no deaths due to these causes.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under four wks	Age in Years						
				5- 14	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
B19(2) Malignant Neoplasm	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
- Oesophagus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Stomach	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
- Intestine	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
- Lung, Bronchus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
- Uterus										
B19(11) Other Malignant	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Neoplasms	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
B46(4) Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nervous System, etc.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B26 Chronic Rheumatic	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Heart Disease	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B27 Hypertensive Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B28 Ischaemic Heart	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	3
Disease	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
B29 Other Forms of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Heart Disease	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
B30 Cerebrovascular	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Disease	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6
B46(5) Other Diseases of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Circulatory System	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
B32 Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B33(1) Bronchitis and	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Emphysema	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
B38 Nephritis and	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephrosis	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B39 Hyperplasia of Pros- tate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
BE48 All Other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
BE49 Suicide and Self- Inflicted Injuries	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
BE50 All Other External Causes	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	28	-	1	-	-	2	5	13	7
	F	48	1	-	1	1	2	3	13	27

S E C T I O N I I

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Twenty-eight cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1969.

Incidence of Infectious Diseases for the past five years:-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Measles	75	15	91	14	13
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	6
Malaria	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	9
Total	77	16	92	14	28

Measles

Thirteen cases were reported. The following table shows the distribution of the disease by age groups. Measles remains a disease of childhood.

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Under 1 year	-	-	1	2	-
1 - year	5	-	10	2	4
2 - years	9	1	6	-	2
3 - years	6	2	13	2	1
4 - years	12	2	16	1	3
5 - 9 years	41	10	43	6	2
10 - 14 years	2	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	1	1
25 - years	-	-	2	-	-
Total	75	15	91	14	13

Measles Vaccination

Immunisation against measles is offered by the County Council. The amount of vaccine was limited by a decrease in manufacture in the latter half of the year.

Year of Birth	1969	1968	1967	1966	1962-65	Others	Total
Hunstanton U.D.	-	4	10	5	12	44	75
Area 3.	2	52	120	75	224	265	738

Tuberculosis

No new case of tuberculosis was reported.

Incidence of Tuberculosis for the past five years is tabled below:-

		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
<u>New Cases</u> :-	Pulmonary	1	1	-	-	-
	Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Inward Transfers</u> :-	Pulmonary	1	-	1	-	-
	Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-
<u>Number on Register</u> <u>at 31st December</u> :-	Pulmonary	19	18	17	16	6
	Non-Pulmonary	3	3	3	3	-
Total		22	21	20	19	6

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

The County Council is the health Authority responsible for organising the immunisation against poliomyelitis. The vaccine is given orally and is usually commenced in infancy when the child is between four and six months of age. A booster dose is offered at school entry.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis during 1969 in Area 3 (which comprises Docking, Mitford & Launditch, and Walsingham Rural Districts, and Dereham, Hunstanton, and Wells Urban Districts), and in Hunstanton Urban District.

Age Groups	Area 3	Hunstanton U.D.
Children born in 1969	40	8
Children born in 1968	323	16
Children born in 1967	18	3
Children born in 1966	7	2
Children born 1962 - 1965	50	-
Others under age 16 years	10	1
Re-inforcing doses (children under 16)	2106	167
Total	2554	197

The following table shows immunisation against poliomyelitis for the past five years:-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
<u>Initial Courses</u>					
Hunstanton U.D.	63	67	73	44	30
<u>Re-inforcing</u>					
Hunstanton U.D.	44	50	60	45	167

(i) Figures for 1965 include adults.

(ii) Figures from 1966 are for children up to 16 years of age only.

Smallpox Vaccination

Vaccination against smallpox is offered by the County Council as the administering Health authority, and is routinely offered to all children between the first and second birthdays. Re-vaccination is given on request.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations, by age groups, carried out in Area 3 and Hunstanton Urban District in 1969.

	Area 3		Hunstanton UD	
	Primary	Re-Vacc.	Primary	Re-Vacc.
0 - 3 months	17	-	1	-
3 - 6 "	3	-	-	-
6 - 9 "	-	-	-	-
9 - 12 "	4	-	-	-
1 year	298	-	10	-
2 - 4 years	105	15	16	1
5 -14 "	44	80	3	8
Total	471	95	30	9

The following table shows vaccination against smallpox, in the District, for the past five years :-

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
<u>Primary</u>					
0 - 3 months	-	-	-	-	1
3 - 6 "	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 9 "	1	-	-	1	-
9 - 12 "	1	1	2	2	-
1 year	17	12	21	8	10
2 - 4 years	16	13	22	22	16
5 - 14 "	1	-	1	4	3
Total	36	26	46	37	30
Re-Vaccinations -Total	4	11	13	9	9

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

None of these diseases occurred in the District in the year under review.

The County Council is the health authority responsible for the organisation of immunisation against these three diseases. Immunisation is usually commenced in infancy when the child is between four and six months old. It is mainly given as 'Triple Antigen' thus reducing the number of injections a child needs. The antigens given, combined in a single vaccine, produce a greater protection to each disease than they would if given separately. Boosters against diphtheria and tetanus are offered soon after school entry. A further booster against tetanus is offered while the child is attending the senior school.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus in Area 3. (Area 3 comprises Docking, Mitford & Launditch, and Walsingham Rural Districts, and Dereham, Hunstanton, and Wells Urban Districts), and the District in 1969.

		Area 3	Hunstanton U.D.
Triple	Initial	390	26
	Booster	502	21
Diphtheria/Tetanus	Initial	35	-
	Booster	1236	30
Diphtheria	Initial	-	-
	Booster	31	-
Tetanus	Initial	55	3
	Booster	793	161

The following table shows immunisation against these diseases in the Urban District, for the past 5 years :-

		1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Triple	Initial	44	45	62	41	26
	Booster	45	43	55	39	21
Diphtheria/Tetanus	Initial	-	21	1	-	-
	Booster	176	109	53	34	30
Diphtheria	Initial	-	-	-	-	-
	Booster	16	10	3	1	-
Tetanus	Initial	11	9	1	10	3
	Booster	23	51	130	50	161

SECTION III

Contributed by the Public Health Inspector

DUTIES

The Public Health Inspector is responsible for all of the Statutory duties laid down by the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, and in addition the supervision of the collection and disposal of refuse, cleansing of the sea front, maintenance of public conveniences, repair and maintenance of Council houses and administration of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations, the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and the Civic Amenities Act.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING 1969

Public Health Acts

Nuisances	58	
Dustbins	34	
Infectious Diseases	5	
Disinfestation of Premises	6	
Cesspools	<u>10</u>	113

Housing Acts

Inspections and Re-inspections	40	
Improvement Grants	<u>9</u>	49

Caravan Sites and Moveable Dwellings 73

Council Houses

Repair and Maintenance	193	
External Painting	<u>94</u>	287

Food and Food Premises

Inspections of Premises	153	
Inspections of Stalls/Vehicles	48	
Ice Cream Premises	30	
Inspection of Meat & Foods	<u>14</u>	245

Other Matters

Factories Act Administration	6	
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.	61	
Petroleum Act and Regulations	18	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	59	
Pet Animals Act	1	
Refuse :		
Storage, Collection & Disposal	130	
Public Conveniences :		
Maintenance and Cleansing	44	
Caravan Site Conveniences :		
Maintenance and Cleansing	29	
Sea Front Cleansing	68	
Allotment Gardens	2	
Civic Amenities Act	23	
Water Supply	-	
Agricultural Workers Act	<u>2</u>	443

Total : 1,210

WRITTEN NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1969

	No. of Notices Served	No. Complied With
(a) <u>Informal</u>		
Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961	12	9
Housing Acts, 1957 and 1960	-	-
Caravan Sites Act, 1960	2	2
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 and 1967	28	20
Factories Act, 1961	-	-
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	-	-
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.	21	19
(b) <u>Statutory</u>		
Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961	-	-
Civic Amenities Act, 1967.	3	3 *
*Carried out in default of the Owners.		

WATER SUPPLY

The North-West Norfolk Water Board took over the Undertaking on the 1st April, 1969, but the Council acted as the Board's Agents throughout the rest of the year. It is planned for the Board to assume full control on the 1st April, 1970.

Water drawn from shallow springs at Old Hunstanton near the northern boundary of the Urban District is chlorinated and pumped to a water tower where it provides mains supply throughout the district. The whole installation which is provided by the Council as agent, comes under the supervision of J.H.T. Rowland, C.Eng., F.I., Mun.E., A.M.I.H.E., A.M.I.P.H.E., the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, who has supplied the following data.

The quantity of water pumped during the year was 87,020,000 gallons, compared with 87,275,000 and 85,640,000 gallons during 1968 and 1967 respectively. The monthly demand varied from 10,386,000 in August to 5,530,000 gallons in March. The peak daily demand was 383,000 gallons on 27th July, which may be compared with 348,000 gallons on 7th July, 1968.

The average daily demand during the year was 238,000 gallons, compared with 238,000 gallons during 1968 and 235,000 gallons in 1967, indicating that there was no undue increase in water demand.

The average daily demand during the peak period of 2nd to 8th August, 1969, was 346,000 gallons, compared with 311,000 gallons in 1968.

During the peak holiday period, demand in the South Beach area at certain hours of the day caused a lowering of the water pressure. Proposals are in hand to improve the supply position to this area and generally to other parts of the district.

Dwelling Houses and Population Supplied

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>
Direct to houses	1634	4202
By external standpipe	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>1638</u>	<u>4210</u>

Bacteriological Quality

Forty-two samples of water were submitted by the Engineer and Surveyor for bacteriological examination during the year, with the following results:-

<u>SAMPLES TAKEN</u>		<u>RESULTS</u>			
Before Chlorination	After Chlorination	Excellent	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
22	-	4	4	1	13
-	20	20	-	-	-

DRAINAGE

During the year a Contractor hired by the Council emptied the septic tanks or cesspools of ten properties which, because of unfavourable levels or distance cannot be connected to the public sewers.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The frequency of collections throughout the district has been maintained as in previous years, i.e. every property received a weekly collection, and many business premises two or more collections as necessary. The caravan sites and chalets were collected twice weekly throughout the summer.

The standard of the service is a very high one and it is worthy of mention that the service is maintained during the summer months when a large influx of holiday makers creates a vast increase in the volume of refuse. Considerable overtime is necessary by the collectors to cope with the increased refuse but by this means wastage of staff during the winter is avoided as is the necessity to engage temporary staff during the summer, which could lead to a deterioration in the standard of the service.

As the older vehicle is rapidly approaching the end of its useful service, the Council decided to purchase a new lorry. After demonstrations it was decided to purchase a Bedford/Eagle Compressload 5 continuous loading vehicle which is due for delivery in March, 1970. The extra capacity and more efficient loading mechanism should assist in saving time and provide greater scope and flexibility for the future.

/Cont'd...

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL - Cont'd.

The refuse tip caused considerable problems due, to a large degree, to itinerants haphazardly dumping soil and other bulky refuse, which severely restricted the access of the Council's vehicles and their movement about the tip. As a result, the tip entrance was locked and an immediate improvement was noticed in this direction.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT

During the year three vehicles were removed from land in the Urban District where they had been abandoned, after service of the necessary notices.

SEA FRONT CLEANSING

As in previous years, the litter baskets on the sea front and car parks were emptied by one of the refuse collectors, and seasonal workers were employed to clear loose litter. On public holidays and some weekends some members of the Council's normal labour force were recruited to supplement the efforts of the cleansing staff.

The summer was an exceptionally fine one and the volume of litter deposited by the public was considerable. It became difficult at times to keep all areas clear of litter. A contributory factor in this problem was the wire mesh litter baskets in use throughout the district which allow spillage of small items and scavenging by birds and animals.

At the end of the year the Council had under consideration the replacement of the wire baskets with a more suitable container.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

The visits recorded under this section included inspections for disrepair in houses, accumulations of junk and refuse, defective sanitary conveniences, choked or defective drains, dustbins, and to arrange for, and supervise, the annual emptying of cesspools within the district.

Two premises were satisfactorily treated for an infestation of ants. A minor infestation of ants on the Council's Caravan Site was also dealt with.

A very heavy infestation of a flying insect affected the whole of the town for a few days during the summer. They were quite harmless, although of considerable nuisance to shopkeepers and householders alike. Only one treatment was requested and carried out at a bungalow, the carport of which was so full of insects that the owner could not use the front door. The insect, which has the colloquial name of Flower, or Drum fly, feeds on aphides, particularly greenfly. In view of the heavy nature of the infestations and only one request for assistance, the townspeople bore the situation with remarkable fortitude.

A shop in the town was severely infested with a weevil, *Stegobium Paniceum*, the bread or biscuit weevil, which was successfully treated.

HOUSING

(A) General

Three premises were recommended to the Council for action under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957, one being in respect of underground rooms. One of the premises was made fit voluntarily by the owner, and action in respect of the other two was not completed during the year.

No case of statutory overcrowding was discovered.

The Housing Act, 1969, came into force during the year which, amongst other things, emphasised the desire of Central Government to encourage the improvement of older dwellings wherever possible.

The main provisions of the Act affecting the Public Health Department are as follows:-

- (a) To raise the amount of Improvement Grants (previously called Discretionary Grants) from £400 to £1,000 and the limit of Standard Grants from £155 to £200.
- (b) Requiring all local authorities to carry out a survey of their districts to determine what action should be taken in respect of unfit houses and Houses in Multiple Occupation.

It is not expected that the Improvement Grant provisions will have any significant effect, but the requirements of (b) above are likely to have considerable effect on the work of the department. There are undoubtedly areas in the Urban District where action under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, will need to be taken and the establishment of clearance areas is a complicated, lengthy and costly process.

The survey of the district was commenced towards the end of the year, but it is not likely to be completed for some time.

(B) Improvement Grants

A number of enquiries were made, and the only application submitted was not determined by the end of the year.

(C) New Houses

Private Builders completed seventeen new dwellings during the year, and a further thirty houses and fifty flats were under construction at the end of the year.

(D) Council Houses

The number of properties remains unchanged and includes the following types :

(a)	2 Bedroom Houses	64
(b)	3 Bedroom Houses	74
(c)	1 Bedroom Bungalows	12
(d)	2 Bedroom Bungalows	5
(e)	1 Bedroom Flats	28
(f)	2 Bedroom Flats	<u>4</u>
		<u>187</u>

The bungalows at (c) and (d), and twenty-four of the flats at (e) are intended for the accommodation of aged persons.

The Council owns an additional four houses let to employees.

Repair and maintenance of the houses was carried out by the direct labour force.

Forty-three houses and twenty-eight flats were repainted externally.

Upon examination of a block of sixteen old people's flats, it was found necessary to renew a number of windows. This was attributed to the poor condition of the external paintwork, and it was further necessary as a result to repaint the complete exterior after only two years, instead of the usual four.

As a result of the experience with these flats, the Council were recommended to carry out future external painting by direct labour, and this was agreed for an experimental period.

CARAVAN SITES AND CAMPING GROUNDS

There are seven caravan sites, two of them owned by the Council, within the Urban District. All are licensed for occupation only during the summer months. One of the privately owned sites has an adjacent area on which tents are permitted. A generally good standard was maintained and no unlicensed caravans were found, other than those exempt under the Act. The only significant contravention of the licence conditions detected was the failure to maintain the fire points in a good condition. It seems that as this facility is seldom required for use, it is generally neglected and in spite of a caravan being gutted by fire on one site, happily without personal injury, the lesson was not learnt. Site operators were continually reminded of their obligations in this direction and of the commonsense in being prepared to fight a fire should the need arise.

The Annual Survey in August showed there were 1,424 caravans and 153 tents, compared with 1,392 and 62 respectively in 1968. This is an increase of approximately 7% over 1968 and 15% over 1965, of Caravans.

Holiday Chalets, which numbered 57, are included in this year's survey.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Food Premises

Regular inspections were carried out throughout the year and a number of verbal and written notices were issued in order to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Legal Proceedings were authorised by the Council in respect of a restaurant, but at the end of the year the hearing had not taken place.

There are in the Urban District around 120 premises to which the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations apply. Generally the standard of hygiene and cleanliness is satisfactory, and in a few premises a real effort has been made to secure a standard very much higher than the legal minimum. It must be emphasised however, that the standard required by the Regulations is a minimum one and those proprietors satisfied with the minimum are always in danger of contravening the Regulations.

(b) Food Inspection

Fourteen visits were made to examine unsound food, and the following were surrendered voluntarily:

Meat and offal		404 lbs. 4 oz.
Canned Meat.	2 tins.	total weight 9 lbs.
Marshmallow Biscuits.	72 pkts.	total weight 38 lbs.

The majority of the meat surrendered was due to overheating by the defrosting device on a chilled cabinet which caused a wire to burn out and taint meat.

Six complaints of unsound food were received and investigated, and as a result stock rotation and keeping methods were improved. In all cases advice was readily accepted by the shopkeeper and no formal action was taken as a result of the complaints.

(c) Meat Inspection

There are no licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban district, and all meat sold within the district is inspected before delivery.

(d) Manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Food

There are five premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the Manufacture of Sausages and other Meat products. All form part of butchers' shops. All were inspected during the year.

One of the five butchers premises closed down at the end of the year.

(e) Ice Cream

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is thirty-seven.

(f) Shellfish

No cockles or mussels were known to be taken for sale from the beaches within the district during the year. Samples of shellfish were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and found to be satisfactory.

(g) Milk and Dairies

There are no milk bottling or treatment plants and all milk sold within the district was treated. As the demand for milk from shops is small during the winter a number of shops are now selling U.H.T. milk in cartons. This milk has a long life and the necessity for continuous stock rotation is largely avoided.

Three premises are registered as dairies, and eleven registered as milk distributors under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1955.

(h) Poultry

There are no poultry packing stations or premises registered under the Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967, within the Urban District.

RODENT CONTROL

Both domestic and business premises receive a free treatment for the extermination of rats and mice. One Council employee serves as a part-time rodent operator.

At the end of the year the public sewers were baited but no infestation of any significance was recorded.

Seventy-two complaints were dealt with, a decrease of thirty from 1968.

FACTORIES

The District is non-industrial and the majority of premises to which the Factories Act applies are Garages and Builder's Workshops.

Additionally there are a printing works, vegetable factory and a furniture factory. No notices were served for infringements of those sections of the Act exercised by the District Council.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Two premises were registered during the year and three closed down. Informal notices were served requiring contraventions to be remedied. The usual matters of non-compliance concern first-aid equipment, thermometers and Food Slicing Machine Guards.

Legal proceedings were authorised for contraventions of the Act, in respect of a restaurant, but the hearing had not taken place at the end of the year.

One accident was reported and upon investigation no action was found to be necessary. The accident was caused by a shop assistant dropping a heavy glass shelf on her leg whilst cleaning.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council owns a total of seven blocks of public conveniences, in addition to a further three blocks for use by occupiers of its caravan sites. As in previous years, expenditure was incurred by vandalism, on one occasion due to damage to coin locks, and another when a number of toilet seats were stolen and never recovered.

Seasonal workers, under the control of the Sea Front Manager, were employed as cleaners and attendants during the holiday period.

During the Winter when all but one block were closed, cleaning was undertaken by one of the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

The Council have under consideration the possibility of converting a disused block of conveniences for use by people confined to wheelchairs. Although it seems that the enforced acceleration of the housing programme will retard the project, it is sincerely hoped that this very worthwhile project will come to fruition.

APPENDIXFactories Act, 1961Annual report for 1969 under Section 153(1) of the
Factories Act, 1961Part I of the Act

(1) Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspection tations (3)	No. of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the local authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	15	6	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 8 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	-	-	-
Totals :	26	6	-	-

Number of Cases in which Defects were found Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspec- (4)	by H.M. Inspec- (5)	No. of Cases in which prosecu- tions were insti- tuted (6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for Sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals :	-	-	-	-	-

Part VIII of the ActOutwork

No notification was received of any outworkers within the District.